

The President. And I'm—I tell you what I'm—

Q. Please give me two minutes with this letter.

The President. I'm going to get the photographer to take a picture of you handing me that letter.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. And that way I'll remember who you were when you handed it to me. *[Laughter]*

Q. I'll always remember you, Mr. President.

The President. Thanks for being a firefighter. God bless, everybody. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:09 a.m. at the Kings Point Clubhouse. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, and his wife, Columba; President Oscar Arias Sanchez of Costa Rica; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Visit to a Fire Station in Sun City Center

May 9, 2006

The President. Jeb and I just were briefed by the firefighters here about the dry conditions that are creating hazards for the people—and Kelley, I appreciate your briefing. He was in charge of putting out that fire yesterday that consumed 450 acres. They think it was caused by a spark out of one of the utility lines.

I've always been impressed by those who are willing to get out and fight the fires and save lives and save property. I'm surrounded by people who made a career out of that. And I want to thank them for their dedication to service. I want to thank them for the briefing about the threat we find ourselves in; we've got dry and windy conditions.

The good news for the people of Florida is, they've got people who are willing to serve and willing to put their lives at risk and willing to fight fires. There's one going on right now, as we speak. Kelley was briefing us on the equipment and manpower that's in place fighting the fire. This is one of these difficult

periods for the State of Florida, dealing with the traumatic conditions as they are.

Obviously, the people need to be real careful—be careful about starting a fire, be careful about throwing used cigarettes out, and be mindful these are dangerous conditions. And they ought to be thoughtful about how to conduct their lives so they don't put others in the positions where a fire could destroy them or their property.

Do you want to say something, Jeb?

Governor Jeb Bush. Well, other than the fact, as the President said, it's actually right that if someone throws a cigarette out on the Interstate, it could create—first of all, it's a loss of life and property and puts a lot of people at risk. And it's a felony in our State. So we want to make sure that no fires are started because of human error or negligence or malfeasance.

The President. Anyway, I want to thank you all for joining me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:59 p.m. at Sun City Center Fire Station No. 28. In his remarks, he referred to Vincent Kelley, captain, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Discussion on the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit in Orlando, Florida

May 10, 2006

The President. Please be seated. Thank you. Thanks for letting me come by to say hello. I'm thrilled to be back in the State of Florida. Yesterday I checked in with my brother—*[laughter]*—to make sure everything is going all right. I'm real proud of Jeb. He's a good, decent man, and I love him dearly.

I also checked in with Laura this morning, to see how she's doing. She sends her best to all of you all. She's doing just great, by the way.

I'm here to talk about Medicare. We've got an exciting program and an exciting opportunity for people to improve their lives. So this is an educational forum. This is a chance not only to speak to the folks here but to those who may be watching on TV